



**in collaboration with**



**Present**



**November 1-3, 2018**

**Niagara Falls Convention  
Center**

**& Sheraton at the Falls**

**Niagara Falls, NY**

**The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, in collaboration with the New York Conference, invites you to join us for the 2018 “Widening the Welcome Conference: Living, Learning, Leading”!** This year’s event will be held in beautiful Niagara Falls, NY at the Sheraton Niagara Falls, and the Niagara Falls Convention Center. The conference will begin on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and end after lunch on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. There will also be an opportunity to register for a Mental Health First Aid class on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This class, organized with the help of UCC Mental Health Network, is a certificated course, with continuing education credit upon completion.

The Widening the Welcome Conference is built around the UCC’s vision for disability inclusion throughout the United Church of Christ. Offered workshops will bring attendees enlightenment in various areas including; Accessibility & Inclusion (A2A), Advocacy, Christian Education and more from invited speakers and organizations. There will also be a discussion panel, consisting of people from different perspectives within the UCC, to bring awareness and insight on living with a disability and into the fullness of service to an accessible, inclusive and loving God.

Invited speakers include: Exec. Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries- Rev. Traci Blackmon, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice- Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Still Speaking Devotional Writer- Rev. Jennifer Brownell, and keynote speaker, UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer.

The event is sure to be an uplifting and rewarding experience! Please see below for the link to online conference registration, with the help of our friends at the UCC NY conference, as well as a link to the Sheraton for Widening the Welcome hotel rates/reservations.

## **Event Schedule at a Glance**

### **Thursday, November 1 -- Sheraton At The Falls**

Registration for Widening the Welcome will be open for those attending the Mental Health First Aid training. Cost= \$50 (includes meals, workbook and certificate of completion) Early evening, meet for a Hospitality Hour to enjoy heavy hor d'oeuvres prior to kicking things off with the Welcome & Announcements. Followed by Opening Worship lead by [Rev. Traci Blackmon](#). We'll wrap things up with the first Small Groups session.

**Friday, November 2 -- Convention Center** The day will begin with Breakfast service, then Registration, followed by Morning Devotions and feature speaker, [Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund](#). After a short break, we will begin the first of three Workshops sessions. We'll enjoy a luncheon together, followed by Workshops Session Two, and then the second of the Small Groups Sessions. Later in the afternoon Friday, there will be a Panel Discussion on living & worshipping with disabilities. After which, a Sabbath Break is scheduled before the Friday night Banquet. At the Banquet we will hear from keynote speaker, [UCC President & General Minister, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer](#). Afterwards we'll have an opportunity to visit at Hospitality Time.

**Saturday, November 3 — Convention Center** Our last day of the conference will start with Breakfast service and then Morning Devotionals. We will hear from featured Speaker, UCC Still Speaking Devotional writer, [Rev. Jennifer Brownell](#). Then after a short break, we'll begin the last of the workshops, Workshops Session Three. Afterwards we'll meet for lunch and then share Closing Worship and Communion, with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund preaching.

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Registration Fees: Full event (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) **\$200** prior to Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, \$225 after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday only, including Banquet (Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>) **\$125** prior to Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, \$150 after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Mental Health First Aid **\$50** includes required workbook, breakfast and lunch.

[Click here to register online.](#)

[Click here to print registration form to mail in with your check.](#)

**Hotel: Sheraton Niagara Falls**, event rate is **\$99** (plus taxes/fees) per night. Please check with hotel on local transportation and travel information.

[Click here to make your hotel reservations online.](#)